



Montana Nonprofit Association

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June 25, 2013

Jon Bennion, Deputy Attorney General  
Montana Department of Justice  
215 North Sanders  
P.O. Box 201401  
Helena, MT 59620

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ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE  
HELENA, MONTANA

Dear Jon:

On behalf of the Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA) Board of Directors, staff, and more than 650 member organizations, I am writing regarding the health conversion foundation that would result from the potential alliance between Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT) and Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC). Recognizing that proceeds from an alliance are specifically addressed in MCA 50-4-720, MNA particularly supports the following:

1. **Directing the proceeds to a 501 (c)(3) private foundation.** We believe this is an ideal nonprofit structure in that it is sustainable without additional fundraising, unlike other 501 (c)(3) nonprofits with public support requirements.
2. **A strong, independent board of directors.** As the recognized voice for and leader of the charitable nonprofit sector in Montana, MNA believes there is no more critical decision than assembling a board of directors that is statewide in scope and includes leaders in community health, philanthropy, business, and civic leadership. We cannot stress enough the role of the board of directors in determining the ultimate success of the 501(c)(3)'s ability to impact the health of Montana's communities over the long term.
3. **A broad definition of health.** We have seen remarkable system-wide results within communities when a broad definition of community health is applied to the use of health conversion foundation funds.

If the alliance moves forward, the health conversion foundation will be an exciting and unprecedented opportunity for Montana. As the next steps emerge, please feel free to call on us if we can be helpful to you. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Moore  
Executive Director

Jon - Thank you, I  
look forward to  
our next conversation  
JL